

Prince William County, Virginia, Independent Cadets Company, November 11, 1774, Resolutions, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM THE PRINCE WILLIAM INDEPENDENT COMPANY.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

Extracts from the Minutes of the independant Company of Cadets of the 11th: Novr. 1774.

—

WILLIAM GRAYSON Gentleman Chairman

Resolved that the Motto of this Company shall be, Aut liber, aut nullus.

Resolved unanimously that Thomas Blackburn,¹ Richard Graham² and Philip Richard Francis Lee³ Gentlemen, do wait upon Collonel George Washington, and request of him to take the command of this Company as their Field Officer, and that he will be pleas'd to direct the fashion of their uniform; That they also acquaint him with the Motto of the Company which is to be fixed on their Colours.

per Order EVAN WILLIAMS⁴ Clk

1 Of "Ripon Lodge;" born in 1740, died in 1807. Thomas Blackburn was the son of Richard Blackburn, of Ripon, Yorkshire, England, and Mary Watts. One of his sisters married the Hon. Bushrod Washington.

2 Probably the son of John Graham, whose daughter Mary married Dr. William Wyatt in 1781, and father of George and John Graham, who held important offices during the administrations of Jefferson and Madison.

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3 Captain in Continental army; wounded at the battle of Brandywine. Edmund Jennings Lee, in Lee of Virginia, presumes that this Captain Philip Richard Francis Lee was the son of Richard Lee, of Maryland, who married first Sarah Brooke, second, Grace Ashton, daughter of Henry Ashton of Westmoreland County. As we find him here among the Virginia volunteers, this supposition is probably not correct.

4 Pierre Williams, sergeant-at-law, London, England, had three grandsons who emigrated to America: John settled in South Carolina; Otho in Maryland, and was ancestor of General Otho Holland Williams, of the Revolutionary Army, from Maryland; William located in Virginia.—HAYDEN. Evan Williams was probably descended from William.